GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:41
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2008
IMPORT OF CEMENT
Gangwar Shri Santosh Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to simplify the rules regarding import of cement keeping in view the rising prices of cement in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of cement likely to be imported as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the extent to which rising prices of cement is likely to be checked; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) to (d) : There is no restriction on the import of cement if it conforms to BIS standard mark. The quantum of import of cement is a factor of extent of demand-supply mismatch, the prices of cement in overseas market and logistics involved in its import at a given point of time. The Government has taken a number of measures to increase the supply of cement in the market which includes reduction of the import duty on cement to 'Nil', removal of countervailing duty and special additional custom duty. Further, MMTC Ltd, a Government of India enterprise, TANCEM, a State Government enterprise of Tamil Nadu and M/s. Puducherry Agro Services Industries Corporation (PASIC) have been given a special dispensation to import cement under the provisions of Cement (Quality Control) Order, 2003 to enable availability of significant quantities of imported cement in the market. With these measures, the average price of cement has stabilized to a large extent showing an increase of only 2.67% between March 2007 and January 2008.